

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Children and Families Advisory Panel
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Title:	Hampshire Adoption Service Annual Activity Report 2014-15
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Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. Summary

- 1.1** This is the annual report of the Adoption and Integrated Recruitment Service and is compiled under the National Minimum Standards 2013 (Standard 25.6) and the Care Standards Act 2000. The report is to inform Hampshire County Council's Children and Families Advisory Panel of the management and outcomes of the Adoption Agency from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

2 Contextual Information

- 2.1** The County Adoption and Integrated Recruitment Service comprises of a Service Manager who manages the Team Managers responsible for two Adoption Child Care Teams (East and West), a county wide Adoption Assessment Team and the Panel Advisory Service.
- 2.2** An Acting County Service Manager has been in post since 1st December 2014 and some of the functions of the panel service has been shared between the two adoption child care team managers.
- 2.3** Appendix 1 sets out data of the key activities of the service for 2014-15

3. Services Provided by Hampshire Adoption Agency

3.1 Integrated Recruitment Team

The Team operates a front door service for all enquiries and subsequent recruitment for adoption (and fostering). The team is made up of social workers, social work assistants, a Marketing and Communications Officer and a Marketing Assistant all headed by a Team Manager.

- 3.2** Over the year the team has dealt with 687 enquiries of individuals seeking to adopt: this compares to a figure of 485 for the previous year.
- 3.3** The team is also responsible for holding regular Information Sessions for those who have enquired about adoption and want to hear more information. These sessions are held every two weeks and are also attended by social work representatives from the children's adoption teams and the adoption support team. Over the year a total of 26 Information Sessions were held.
- 3.4** 413 enquiries that were received over the year could not be progressed for a variety of reasons:
- non responses to call backs/contact from the team;
 - no physical room within the household for an additional child;
 - lack of child care experience;
 - a child or children already in the household being of too young age (when considering the age of the child the family wished to adopt);
 - current family commitments;
 - health issues;
 - relationships that were deemed to be not sufficiently established.
- 3.5** Over the year a total of 303 prospective adoptive households attended an Information session. This compares to a figure of 132 for the previous year.
- 3.6** Of the 303 prospective adoptive households who attended an information session 189 applications were received. Of these 149 were forwarded to the adoption assessment team. 30 were counselled out by the Integrated Recruitment Team or withdrew following receipt of the application form. A further 10 had not had a decision made by the end of March 2015 and so were carried over into the next financial year.
- 3.7** Of the 30 applications counselled out/withdrawn the following reasons were noted:
- a) Lack of child care experience: 8 applicants
 - b) Relationship not of sufficient duration: 4 applicants
 - c) Recent separation from partner: 2 applicants
 - d) Health issues and own child being very young: 1 set of applicants
 - e) Moving house: 2 applicants
 - f) Health issues (including smoking): 3 applicants
 - g) Recent fertility treatment: 1 set of applicants
 - h) Unable to meet the needs of specific child: 2 sets of applicants
 - i) Recent loss of birth child: 1 set of applicants
 - j) No spare room for a child: 2 sets of applicants
 - k) Applicants not wishing to consider priority criteria: 2 sets of applicants
 - l) Applicants withdrew own application: 2 sets of applicants
- 3.8** The team has identified workers responsible for Family Finding for Hampshire children waiting for adoptive families and for whom no families

can be found in-house. The workers liaise with the children's social workers to profile these children in publications such as BAAF's Be My Parent and Adoption UK's Children Who Wait and on Adoption Link. Workers from the team also attend profile events with children's social workers run by the National Adoption Register. Hampshire also held its own profile event in June 2014 organized by the Family Finding workers.

3.9 Adoption Assessment Team

The Adoption Assessment Team undertakes the training, preparation and assessment of prospective adoptive parents and supports prospective adoptive parents through approval and placement to the Adoption Order being made. Workers in the team also undertake step-parent assessments. The team comprises of social workers, an Assistant Team Manager and a Team Manager. The team has carried a 0.5 vacancy throughout the year and money from this vacant post has been used to pay for independent social work assessments which has provided some flexibility for the service.

- 3.10** Over the year the adoption assessment team completed 78 assessments with 73 sets of prospective adopters being approved within the year, including 3 sets of adopter/foster carers. The number of approvals equates to a conversion rate of 10.6% from enquiries. The number of assessments completed and adopters approved is a significant increase on the previous year when the team completed 44 assessments with 39 sets of adopters being approved before the end of the year.
- 3.11** Of the 78 assessments completed and referred to panel during 2014-15 one set of prospective adopters was not approved and two sets of prospective adopters who had their approval decision deferred for further work withdrew from the process.
- 3.12** No cases have been referred to the Independent Review Mechanism (IRM) (which provides adoptive applicants in England with the option of applying to an independent body to review the adoption agency's decision (or 'qualifying determination') not to approve them as adopters if they do not wish to accept the adoption agency's decision). The one set of prospective adopters who were not approved during the year did not refer themselves to the IRM. The IRM continues to be operated by the British Association for Adoption & Fostering (BAAF) on behalf of the Department of Education.
- 3.13** With regard to timescales within which the assessments of the 73 sets of prospective adopters were completed, the average timescale (for Stages 1 and 2 together) was 7.9 months. This compares to 8.9 months for the previous year. 16% of the 73 sets of prospective adopters were approved within 6 months.
- 3.14** Stage 1 of the adoption assessment, which is adopter led, should be completed within 2 months. They are however, taking long than this: 19% of Stage 1 assessments were completed within 2 months. The average

timescale for completion of Stage 1 was 3.28 months. Delays have occurred due to the length of time some of the checks and references and health assessments are taking.

- 3.15** Due to the complexity of some of the assessments being referred to the team, the team now undertake one or two home visits during Stage 1 of the process rather than waiting until Stage 2 of the process.
- 3.16** Stage 2 of the adoption assessment should be completed within 4 months. Of the assessments completed during the year 67% were completed within this timescale. The average time for completion of Stage 2 was 4.75 months. Delays within Stage 2 assessments have been due to complex issues within some assessments which have required further time to be explored, staff sickness and prospective adopters themselves requesting further time.
- 3.17** At the end of March 2015 there were:
 32 sets of applicants in Stage 1
 45 sets of prospective adopters in Stage 2
 76 sets of prospective adopters being supported post-approval by the team, including a pool of 35 adoptive families available for matching.
- The increase in numbers of approved adopters is very welcome giving more potential resources for matching of children and allowing a greater degree of choice of types of families for social workers seeking adoptive placements for children.
- 3.18** There is still however, a mismatch between the preferences of prospective adopters and the needs of the children requiring adoptive families.
- 3.19** The average time for prospective adopters to be matched following approval is 3.3 months.
- 3.20** All prospective adopters on approval are given a one-year membership of Adoption UK, a support group for adopters, which is paid for by Hampshire County Council.
- 3.21** The team is also involved in recruitment events and Information Sessions as well as delivering the training and preparation course for prospective adopters, working alongside colleagues from other teams within the adoption service.
- 3.22** The assessment team also deal with step parent adoption work, with two part-time social workers dealing specifically with this area of work. During 2014-15 there were 24 step parent adoption orders made. This compares with 14 step parent adoption orders made during the previous year.

4. Children's Adoption Teams

There are two area children's adoption teams – East and West – within Hampshire's Adoption Agency. Each team is staffed with child care social workers, an Assistant Team Manager and a Team Manager. There is also a Children and Families Support Worker in each team.

- 4.1** A social worker is allocated to all cases, to begin parallel planning, where adoption may be an option being considered as part of childcare planning. On the making of a Placement Order the adoption social worker becomes the child's caseholding social worker and becomes responsible for all of the statutory work for those looked after children. Their work includes family finding, supervised contact between the children and birth family, court work involved in the adoption proceedings, writing later life letters for the children and ensuring that each child has a lifestory book. In terms of caseloads The East children's team average 23.6 cases per registered social worker and the West children's team average 18.8 per registered social worker.
- 4.2** The Children and Families Support Workers assist with direct contact between children and their birth families and also in the preparation of lifestory books.
- 4.3** Social workers from the children's adoption teams are also involved in recruitment events, Information Sessions and the training and preparation course for prospective adopters, working alongside social workers from the adoption assessment team and the integrated recruitment team. Some social workers from the children's teams also sit on adoption panel.

5. Adoption Support Team

The Adoption Support Team comprises social workers, two Children and Families Support Workers and currently an Acting Team Manager. The team provides a range of support services required under the Adoption Support Regulations for adoptive families, children and birth parents/family.

- 5.1** These services include:
- A counselling service to adopted adults who are seeking access to records about their adoption and family of origin
 - Support/counselling to birth relatives seeking to make contact with a relative who has been adopted
 - Requests for adoption support services and an adoption support needs assessment
 - Adoption Information Exchange, overseeing contact arrangements between adopted children and their birth families
 - Support of direct contact arrangements (in co-operation with children's adoption social workers)
- 5.2** The Adoption Support Service has had a number of contracts in place with external agencies, including the Post Adoption Centre, CAMHS and Barnardos for the provision of support to birth families and adoptive

families. However, several of these contracts have not been renewed for the next financial year and the work is to be brought in house with spot purchasing of services when required.

- 5.3** Hampshire's adoption support service has been one of the adoption agencies involved in the pilot of the Adoption Support Fund, a fund which was set up by the government in April 2014 with a £19.3 million pot giving Local Authorities access to pay for therapeutic services to help children recover from their previous experiences, bond with their adoptive families and settle into their new lives.
- 5.4** Throughout the pilot year Hampshire's adoption support service made 24 applications to the Adoption Support Fund, with a total value of £127,640. This was for 20 individual families and one group application to fund 10 places on a "Caring for Children who have experienced Trauma" course which the adoption service purchases from Hampshire's Educational Psychology Service. The individual packages for adoptive families have included therapy and specialist assessments for adoptive children and sensory assessments for children who have experienced early trauma.
- 5.5.** Hampshire's adoption support service continues to access the fund which, following the end of the pilot, has now been made available nationally to all local authorities for the next year.
- 5.6** Five members of the Adoption Support Team have completed a Therapy course to level one, and one completed Therapy to level two. The service is looking at how it can integrate this training across the service, to improve attachment between adoptive parents and child.
- 5.7** The team has developed adopter support groups, and are now holding them in four areas of the county.
- 5.8** Between April 2014 and March 2015 the team dealt with:
- 76 new requests for adoption support
 - 347 adult adoptees seeking information about their adoptions
 - 49 direct contact arrangements and the co-ordination of another 20 and were supporting a total of 208 families.

6. Inter Country Adoptions

All inter country adoption assessments are carried out within a Service Level Agreement with Parents And Children Together (PACT) Reading. However, Hampshire has a statutory responsibility to undertake the welfare supervision of those children whose adoption orders made in their country of origin are not recognised in the UK and who therefore need to go through the adoption process in the UK.

- 6.1** There are currently no children from overseas placed with approved adopters in Hampshire who require welfare supervision. One family is awaiting the placement of a child from India.

7. Adoption Consortium

- 7.1** During the last year Hampshire has become a member of a newly developed consortium, the Adoption South Central Consortium (ASCC). The consortium is a coming together of two existing consortia (including the consortium to which Hampshire had belonged for a number of years) and a number of neighbouring authorities, combining the adoption needs, expertise and resources of the voluntary sector, unitary authorities and county councils.
- 7.2** The ASCC was formally established in May 2014 and consists of 10 Local Authority Adoption Agencies and 2 Voluntary Adoption Agencies across the South Central area of England.
- 7.3** The aims of the ASCC are to:-
- Identify a greater variety of placement options for children, particularly those with complex needs, from a wider pool of adopters
 - Reduce delays and improve timescales for matching adopters and children
 - Improve information available to all adopters about children in need of adoption in their region
 - Increase marketing and recruitment activity and strategy across the consortium area
 - Encourage adopters to access a wider range of training, workshops and adoption support resources.
- 7.4** Having established the new consortium following a jointly commissioned Feasibility Study, funded by the Adoption Reform Grant, the ASCC now has a regular Board Meetings with representatives of each agency and a number of Working Groups (Data Co-ordination, Policy and Practice alignment, Joint Commissioning of Adoption Support Service) and a jointly funded Co-ordinator.
- 8. Children with Plans for Adoption and Placed for Adoption and Prospective Adopters Approved from 1st April to 31st March 2013-14 and 2014-15.**

1st April to 31st March

	2013-14	2014-15
Adoption Orders Made	56	86
Children Matched/Placed	78	97
Children's plans for adoption agreed	110	75
Plans for adoption	9	28

rescinded		
Disruptions (pre-Adoption Order)	8	4
Approved adopters	36	73

- 8.1** There has been a significant rise in the number of adoption orders made during 2014-15, the numbers of children matched/placed and the numbers of adopters approved by the agency.
- 8.2** At the same time there has been a significant decrease in the number of new children's plans for adoption being referred to Hampshire's agency decision maker and a rise in the number of plans for adoption being rescinded by the agency.
- 8.3** The numbers of children being referred to the two area children's teams for parallel planning have remained more or less the same, while the numbers of children being referred for an agency decision on whether they should be placed for adoption has decreased as has the number of Placement Orders being made. Case law, including Re: B and Re: BS, with courts viewing adoption as a last resort and carefully scrutinizing care planning and analysis of other placement and care options for the child has impacted upon the numbers.
- 8.4** During the year 28 children who had had plans for adoption made in the past had those plans rescinded. The reasons for rescinding those plans were as follows:

Reason	Number of Children
Court did not make Placement Order	12
Prospective adopters could not be found	7
Child's needs changed after decision on plan	2
Other reasons:	
i) Adoption placement disrupted & children placed in long term foster care	2
ii) Care plans changed during proceedings to a Family placement	4

iii) Birth mother successfully appealed a PO	1
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- 8.5** Sadly the placements of 4 children (two single children and a sibling pair) disrupted during the year. For one child the disruption occurred during introductions and before placement. The other three children had all been placed. Professionals meetings, to look more closely at the disruptions and what can be learned, either have or are to take place. The plans for all four children remain adoption and adoptive families have been identified.
- 8.6** At the end of March 2015 there were 43 children with Placement Orders awaiting adoption (with 18 of these children having a family identified – either already approved or in assessment for the children). This compares with 79 children who were awaiting adoption at the end of March 2014 (with 34 having had families identified). There has been almost a 50% reduction in children awaiting adoption over the last year in Hampshire which reflects the picture nationally.
- 8.7** A significant issue during 2014-15 has been the numbers of Hampshire children matched with adopters from other agencies. Although the numbers of adopters approved with Hampshire increased significantly during the year the preferences of many of those adopters have still not matched the needs of the children waiting. This has resulted in approximately 40% of Hampshire children being placed in inter-agency adoptive placements.
- 8.8** A total of 97 children were linked with 81 sets of prospective adopters during the year. 35 of these children were matched with prospective adopters from other adoption agencies. 11 children were matched with their foster carers.
- 8.9** Of the 35 children matched with adopters from other agencies, 23 children were matched with 20 families from other Local Authorities and 12 children were matched with 8 families from Voluntary Adoption Agencies.
- 8.10** Hampshire and two of its consortium member agencies (Oxfordshire and Surrey) worked with BAAF to hold Adoption Activity Days in September 2014 and more recently in April 2015 following which a number of children have gone on to be matched with prospective adopters (from within Hampshire as well as other agencies). It is of note that at the April event the number of children referred was much lower than at previous events and spaces were offered to other Local Authorities.
- 8.11** The Exempt Appendix lists the children linked and placed in other agency adoptive placements during 2014-15.

- 8.12** Of the 86 children adopted during the year 12 were adopted by their foster carers.
- 8.13** Of the 86 children adopted during the year 9.7% (7 children) were from minority ethnic backgrounds. This compares to 9.8% (6 children) the previous year.
- 8.14** Of the 86 children adopted during the year 5.1% (19 children) were aged 5 years or over. This compares to 4.4% for the previous year.
- 8.15** During the year 2014-15 15.5% of looked after children ceased to be looked after who were adopted.
- 8.16** During 2014-15 the total spend on inter-agency placements was £816,000: this included final payments for children placed in the previous years. This total spend was partially offset by funding from the Adoption Reform Grant (Hampshire was awarded a total of £1,068,757 during 2014-15 payable in four instalment, to support the changes within adoption).
- 8.17** Adoption Reform Grant funding has now ceased. However, the government has recently announced provision of further monies to Local Authorities to offset inter-agency payments for a 12 month period for new interagency placements where children meet certain criteria. Further information on this is awaited.
- 8.18** During the last year four sets of prospective adopters from Hampshire were matched to children from other Local Authorities providing an income of £81,000.

8.19 Breakdown of profile of children with new plans for adoption 2014-15

Breakdown of profile of children with new plans for adoption April 2014 - March 2015	
Single male children:	34
Single female children:	16
Sibling pairs:	11
Sibling group of 3:	1

8.20 Ethnicity of children with new plans for adoption 2014-15

Ethnicity of Children with new Plans for Adoption 2014-15 (Total Number of children:)	
White British	68

Mixed: White & Black African	0
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	0
Mixed: White & Asian	0
White Other	2
Mixed: Other	4
Black Other	0
Black African	1
Other Ethnic Group	0
Not known (refused/unable to provide):	0

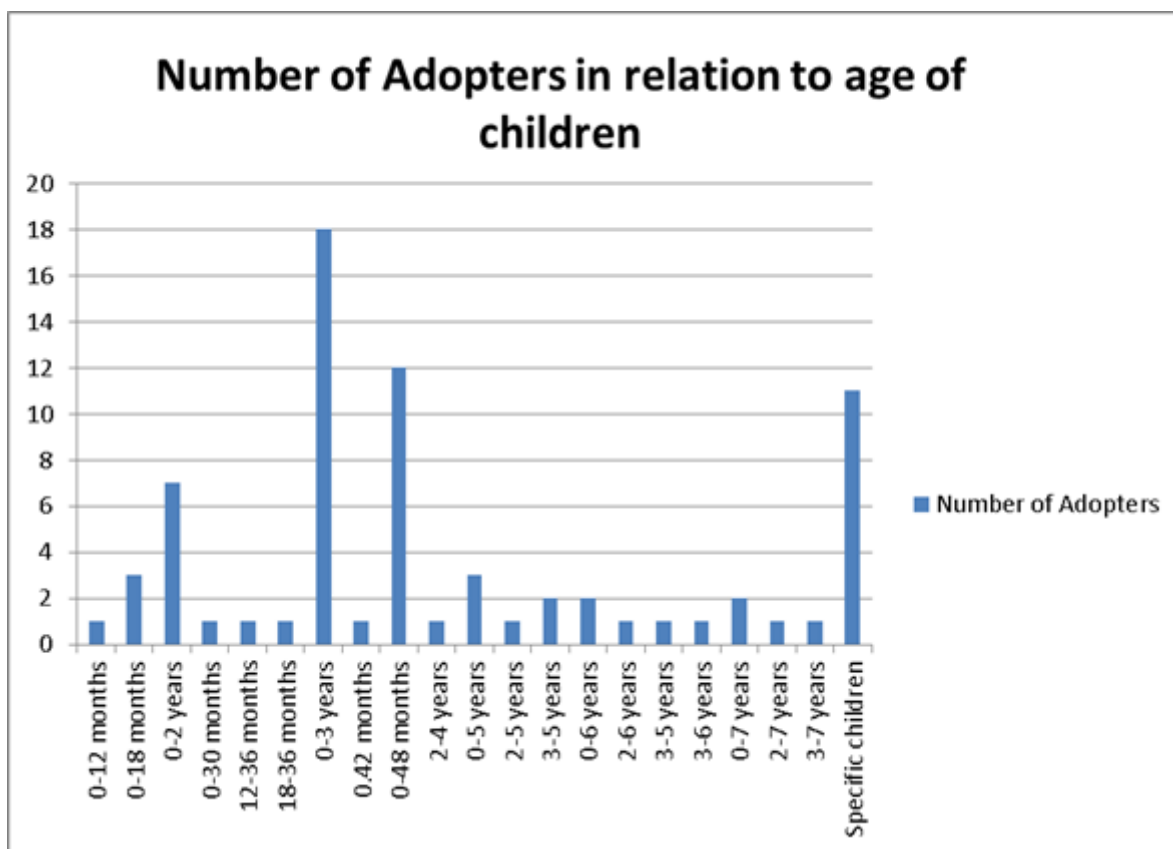
8.21 Of the 76 children who have had new plans for adoption agreed since 1 April 2014, four of the children were relinquished for adoption.

8.22 **Ages of children with new plans for adoption at time of agency decision**

April 2014-March 2015

0-6mths	7-12 months	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-5 yrs	5+ yrs	TOTAL
26	14	8	7	13	7	75

8.23 **Number of Adopters in relation to their age preference of children**



8.24 Adoption Scorecard (3 year average: 2011-2014)

8.25 Adoption Scorecards were introduced by the government as part of an approach to tackle delays in the adoption system. The scorecard allows local authorities and other agencies to monitor their performance and compare it with others. The last scorecard was published by the Department for Education in December 2014.

8.26 Scorecard Indicators for 2011 to 2014 the scorecard data is to the end of March 2014. The previous 3 year period 2010 to 2013 shown in brackets: The final column shows the local data for the indicator for the reporting year 2014-15.

	Indicator	Hampshire	England	HCC (2014-15)
1.	Average time between child entering care and moving in with adoptive family: for children who have been adopted (days) (Threshold target: 547 days)	587 (599)	628 (647)	522 days

2.	Average time between a LA receiving court authority to place a child and the LA deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days) (Threshold target: 152 months)	196 (192)	217 (210)	233.1 days
3.	Percentage of children who wait less than 18 months (or less than 20 months pre 2011-14) between entering care & moving in with their adoptive family	59% (58%)	51% (55%)	58.1%

- 8.27** Hampshire improved its performance on Indicator 1 from its previous 3-year performance, with its average time being shorter. This improved performance has continued during 2014-15. The reduction in the length of care proceedings to 26 weeks would have impacted on this indicator.
- 8.28** For Indicator 2 the average time was longer than the previous 3 year performance but with timescales improving in the last year of the 3 year period of 2011-14. Hampshire's average time was better than the average time for England. The average time during 2014-15 has increased, reflecting the complexity of the needs of some of the children who require adoptive placements, the lack of appropriate adopters within Hampshire's own pool of adopters at the time and the need to look at inter-agency resources through profiling and other family finding means. Although the average time has increased social workers within the service have worked hard and with some success, to find adoptive families for a number of children who have very complex needs.
- 8.29** Since January 2015 internal family finding meetings have been held fortnightly, chaired by the Service Manager and a protocol established in an attempt to clarify roles between social workers, streamline and speed up the process of family finding.
- 8.30** For Indicator 3 the number and percentage of Hampshire children who wait less than 18 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family is higher than the national average for the 3 year period 2011-18. The reduction in the length of care proceedings would have impacted on this indicator.
- 8.31** The scorecard data above captures data to the end of March 2014. The next scorecard is due to be published in December 2015 which will record data up to the end of March 2015.
- 8.32** The adoption journeys and the timescales of children and prospective adopters within Hampshire are tracked and discussed at a monthly

Adoption Monitoring Meeting attended by managers within the adoption service.

9. Adoption Panel and Advisory Service

- 9.1** Hampshire Adoption Agency provides an advisory service which oversees the recruitment, training, management and administration of the Central List of Adoption Panel Members for Hampshire's adoption panels. Hampshire has four core panels each meeting once a month at various locations throughout the county. Each panel normally meets for half a day with an agenda containing up to 4 cases.
- 9.2** The panels met on 50 occasions during the year April 2014-March 2015: this included two all-day panels in order to deal with the increase in adopter assessments and linkings.
- 9.3** Hampshire currently has 31 persons on its Central List of Adoption Panel Members, including elected members who continue to support the work of the adoption agency.
- 9.4** Panel members were offered two training sessions during the year on the governments adoption reform agenda and on adoption disruption research.
- 9.5** Adoption panels are required to provide feedback to the agency on the quality of the reports presented to the panel. This includes whether the requirements of the Restrictions on the Preparation of Adoption Reports Regulations 2005 have been met (that children's and adopter's reports are only completed by registered and experienced social workers or student social workers who are supervised by registered and experienced social workers) and whether there is a thorough, rigorous, consistent and fair approach across the service in the assessment of whether a child should be placed for adoption, the suitability of prospective adopters and the proposed placement.
- 9.6** In response to some feedback regarding waiting times for prospective adopters the panel process was changed so that prospective adopters are now invited into the panel with their social worker at the beginning of each case: this has led to more participation from prospective adopters. In response to other feedback from prospective adopters and social workers regarding the size of the panel and feelings of being rather overwhelmed by this at times, the number of panel members attending each panel has been reduced.
- 9.7** The majority of reports presented to panel are considered to be of a good standard across the service.
- 9.8** Prospective adopters and presenting social workers are given evaluation sheets on which to provide feedback to the Panel/Agency on their

experience at the Panel. This is shared with Panel Members at the following month's panel. Feedback is generally positive.

10. Adoption Reform Agenda

10.1 Regional Adoption Agencies

The Government has recently published a paper setting out its proposals to move to regional adoption agencies which it feels will improve adopter recruitment and adoption support, speed up matching and reduce costs. The government's expectation is that, by the end of the current Parliament all local authorities will be part of regional adoption agencies – where services are delivered on a greater scale and with more innovative approaches to practice. Legislation and statutory powers are being introduced in the Education and Adoption Bill. A £4.5 million start-up fund has been set up to support project development and implementation for authorities that may have an idea for new delivery models.

The government's paper is currently being discussed within the adoption consortium and considered by senior management.

10.2 Adoption Leadership Board

The Adoption Leadership Board is a national board jointly developed by the Government, local authorities and the voluntary sector to provide national leadership to the adoption system, improve its performance and tackle the key challenges that it faces. It has a particular focus on supporting and challenging the adoption system to maximise the likelihood that:

- Children for whom adoption is the best way of achieving permanence are adopted without unnecessary delay;
- There are enough adopters to provide homes for all of the children who have agreed plans for adoption;
- Adoptions do not break down, through the right support being readily available to all people who need it.

10.3 Board members are senior officials from key organisations in the adoption system in England, including the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS). The Board interacts with individual adoption agencies through Regional Adoption Boards. Hampshire is a member of the South East Regional Adoption Board.

10.4 The South East Regional Adoption Board held its first event on 18 March 2015 which was very well attended. Representatives from Hampshire's Adoption Agency who attended the event gave a presentation on Hampshire's experience of piloting the Adoption Support Fund.

10.5 Hampshire Adoption Agency is seeking representation on the South East Regional Adoption Board.

11. Future Direction: Work Plan for 2015-16:

- To continue to strive to improve timescales for the new 2-stage process for the assessment of prospective adopters
- To develop a learning pathway of training and development for prospective and approved adopters with the assistance of a newly recruited Workforce Development Officer specifically for the adoption service who will be in post at the end of September. The aim is for better preparation and ongoing support of adopters throughout their adoption journey, parenting their adopted children into adulthood.
- To continue to respond to the new timescales for completion of care proceedings within 26 weeks in terms of achieving early placements and to use concurrent planning/early placement wherever possible.
- To manage the continuation of the government's adoption change agenda including the government's recently announced intention to form regional adoption agencies
- To recruit prospective adopters to meet the needs of Hampshire children for whom adoption is the plan.
- To generate income by offering adopters surplus to our need to other adoption agencies who have children awaiting adoptive families.
- To continue to build more efficient systems for the reporting of performance management information.
- To work as a member of the Adoption South Central Consortium to develop policy, practice and services for the benefit of vulnerable children who need adoptive families.
- To respond and manage any reconfiguration of the service during the coming year through the transformation programme.

12. Recommendation

- 12.1** That this report is noted and supported by the Children and Families Advisory Panel.

Appendix 1

Key activities within the adoption service between 01.04.14 and 31.03.15

Activity	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
No of Adoption Enquiries	97	85	52	61	36	46	44	61	32	64	52	57	687
No of enquiries with no response/cancelled out on Duty	6	51	30	23	69	9	7	97	16	23	33	49	413
No attending Info sessions is month	28	37	34	31	19	29	23	22	17	15	26	22	303
RIF forms returned	21	18	17	22	16	16	8	17	15	14	15	10	189
Total counselled out following RIF/Viability	5	1	0	4	4	2	0	2	1	3	3	5	30
RIF forms awaiting decision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
Total forwarded to assessment team	18	21	11	20	12	16	8	13	15	11	10	4	149
Total number of PAs approved in this month	7	3	8	9	5	4	8	4	7	6	4	8	73
No of PARs to Panel (sets of PAs)	7	6	5	10	4	4	10	7	4	7	3	11	78
Childrens Plans for Adoption to Panel	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	4
Children's Plans for Adoption Referred to ADM (as from 01.09.12)	5	4	7	3	8	7	6	5	5	6	5	10	71
Total No of Linkings to panel (no of children/sets of adopters)	9/8	11/9	12/12	6/6	6/5	6/6	7/5	11/10	6/4	11/6	10/8	2/2	97/81

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.2 This will improve the life chances of children needing to be placed for adoption in Hampshire.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. None.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? N/A
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts? N/A